



# Gunfight at the

# Not-OK Corral

**Weapons Goofs and Gaffes  
Starring Sailors and Marines**

**Courtesy of the Naval Safety Center's  
Summary of Mishaps**

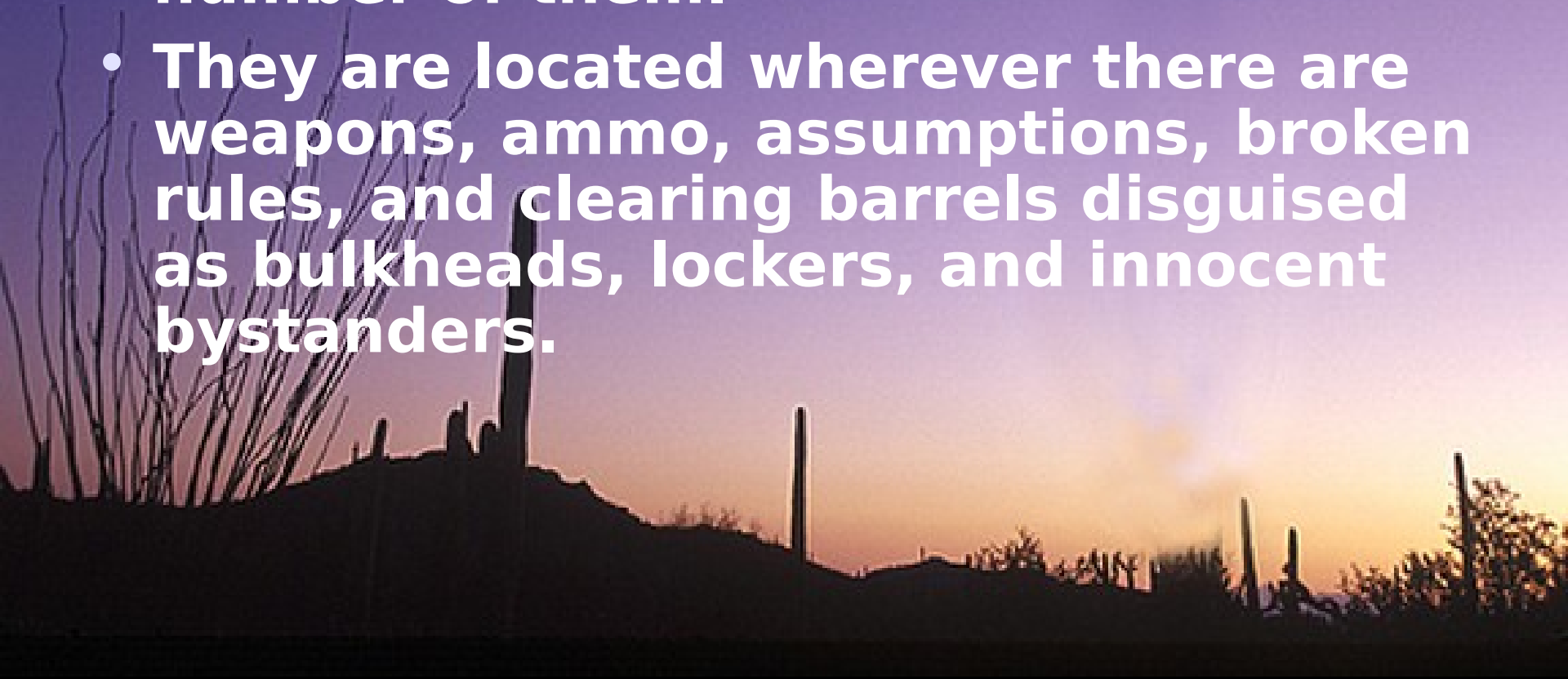
# Background

- The original gunfight at the O.K. Corral featured the good guys (led by Wyatt Earp) vs. the bad guys (led by the Clantons)
- Our version features Sailors and Marines vs. themselves and/or anyone who happens to be standing around



# **Where Is the Not-O.K. Corral?**

- **The Navy and Marine Corps have any number of them.**
- **They are located wherever there are weapons, ammo, assumptions, broken rules, and clearing barrels disguised as bulkheads, lockers, and innocent bystanders.**



## GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL®



Tom McLaury Frank McLaury Billy Clanton



Wyatt Earp



Doc Holliday



Virgil Earp



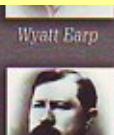
Morgan Earp

# Aboard Ship

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**TOMBSTONE  
ARIZONA**

## GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL®



Clanton



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**TOMBSTONE  
ARIZONA**



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# **Sure Was Noisy for a “Dry-Firing”**

- **The scene: ship’s armory, in port at Bahrain**
- **E-5 duty gunner issuing weapons to ship security forces**
- **Previous day’s duty gunner had stored a 9mm Beretta in condition III instead of condition IV**
- **E-5 pulls back the pistol’s slide, releases it**
- **Doesn’t verify that the chamber and magazine are clear**
- **Moves the safety off and “dry-fires” the pistol through wooden bulkhead**

# Tombstone and the Tropics Aren't All That Far Apart

- CTTSN on topside rover watch aboard ship in Hawaii
- Ejection port cover on his M-16 was open
- Weapon is in Condition 1 (a round chambered) vice Condition 3
- Rifle was in seaman's tactical sling
- GM2 decided to help clear M-16 and "took control of the weapon"
- Removed magazine using "tactical" procedures

***Cont.***

# **Tombstone and the Tropics, cont.**

- **GM2 tried to lock bolt in rear position with weapon on safe**
- **Seaman and GM2 both tried to reinsert magazine, but it wouldn't seat**
- **GM2 pulled the charging handle back with his finger in trigger guard**
- **Pulled trigger, fired a 5.56 mm round into deck**
- **Shrapnel hit GM2 in leg, cheek and right side. Hit seaman in leg**

# Three Dangerous Assumptions

- **P03 assumed the watch near the quarterdeck**
- **Put magazine in pistol, released slide, chambered a round**
- **Assumed the safety was on (it wasn't)**
- **Assumed the hammer was stuck (it wasn't)**
- **pulled the trigger, fired into clearing barrel**



# Practicing the Good Old Quick-Draw

- Starboard weatherdeck aboard ship in a foreign port.
- SM2 was main-deck roving security.
- Went to ship's armory, got a 9mm pistol and 45 rounds of ammo.
- Duty gunner's mate provided pistol (on safe, hammer up, weapon clear)
- SM2 held the weapon in a clearing barrel.

***Cont.***

# **The Good Old Quick-Draw, cont.**

- **Gunner's mate handed him 15-round magazine, told him to check weapon on safe and hammer up**
- **Told SM2 to slide back the bolt, insert the magazine and slide the bolt forward**
- **Pistol now in condition 1 and the safety was on**
- **Another Sailor saw him moving the weapon up and down in the holster, practicing quick draw**
- **SM2 managed to take the safety off**
- **Fired a shot into his left leg**



O.K.  
CORRAL

O.K.  
CORRAL

O.K.  
CORRAL

At a  
pistol  
range

# **Try Blaming It on a “Malfunctioning” Pistol**

- **ET3 in Connecticut at a shooting range with a used pistol**
- **Tried to fix loose barrel, other hand on the trigger**
- **Mishap report said firearm "malfunctioned"**
- **His command held training "on the dangers of buying old/used firearms"**
- **How about some training on unloading your weapon before you start to mess around with it?**



# **You'd Think Two Safeties Would Be Enough**

- **AD3 target-shooting at a local range**
- **Started to unload his semi-automatic pistol**
- **Pistol had a thumb safety and a trigger safety**
- **Moved the slide back but a round lodged in the chamber.**
- **Wrestled with it, slide slid forward and his finger slipped off the trigger guard.**
- **Shot himself in the hand**



# **A Scary Way to Create New Rules**

- **Off-duty Sailor on first visit to base pistol range**
- **Fires his .45, goes to counter to get more ammo**
- **Loads magazine with hollow-point rounds**
- **Inserts it and moves slide forward**
- **Fires a round into the deck behind the counter**
- **Two new local rules: (1) load or unload weapons only on the firing line, (2) keep weapons in holster except when firing**



The image is a composite of two movie posters. The left poster is for 'Gunfight at the O.K. Corral' starring Burt Lancaster. The right poster is for 'Light in the Corral' starring Kirk Douglas. A central blue rectangle with a white border contains the text 'At home And abroad' in white serif font. The posters feature close-up portraits of the lead actors, with Lancaster on the left and Douglas on the right. Below the portraits, the titles and cast information are printed in red and white text.

At  
home  
And  
abroad

# **“Figuring Out” How to Load and Unload a Rifle**

- **O-2 at home in Pensacola**
- **Neighbor (a classmate) figuring out how to load and unload his new rifle.**
- **They tried several times to load and unload**
- **O-2 decided to insert a cleaning rod to see if anything was blocking the muzzle.**
- **Crossed the line of fire as his neighbor stood up and pulled the trigger.**
- **Rifle fired, O-2 hit in foot**
- **Rifle owner had “lost track” of how many rounds were in the chamber**

# **Riding Shotgun Turns Into Shooting Shotgun**

- **Outside an air base in Kuwait**
- **In the cab of a 10-ton truck**
- **E-5 riding shotgun during ammo delivery with a Remington 12-gauge**
- **Shifted himself in the seat to get more comfortable**
- **Blasted hole in floorboard and exhaust pipe**
- **Didn't verify safety was on, didn't keep finger outside trigger guard**
- **His quals had expired**



# **Again With the Quick-Draw, for Goodness Sake**

- **Marine in a lounge, alone and bored**
- **“Playing quick draw”**
- **Pulls M9 from his holster**
- **Switches the safety lever to fire**
- **Fires a round through the nearest wall**
- **Was a member of his company’s pistol team**



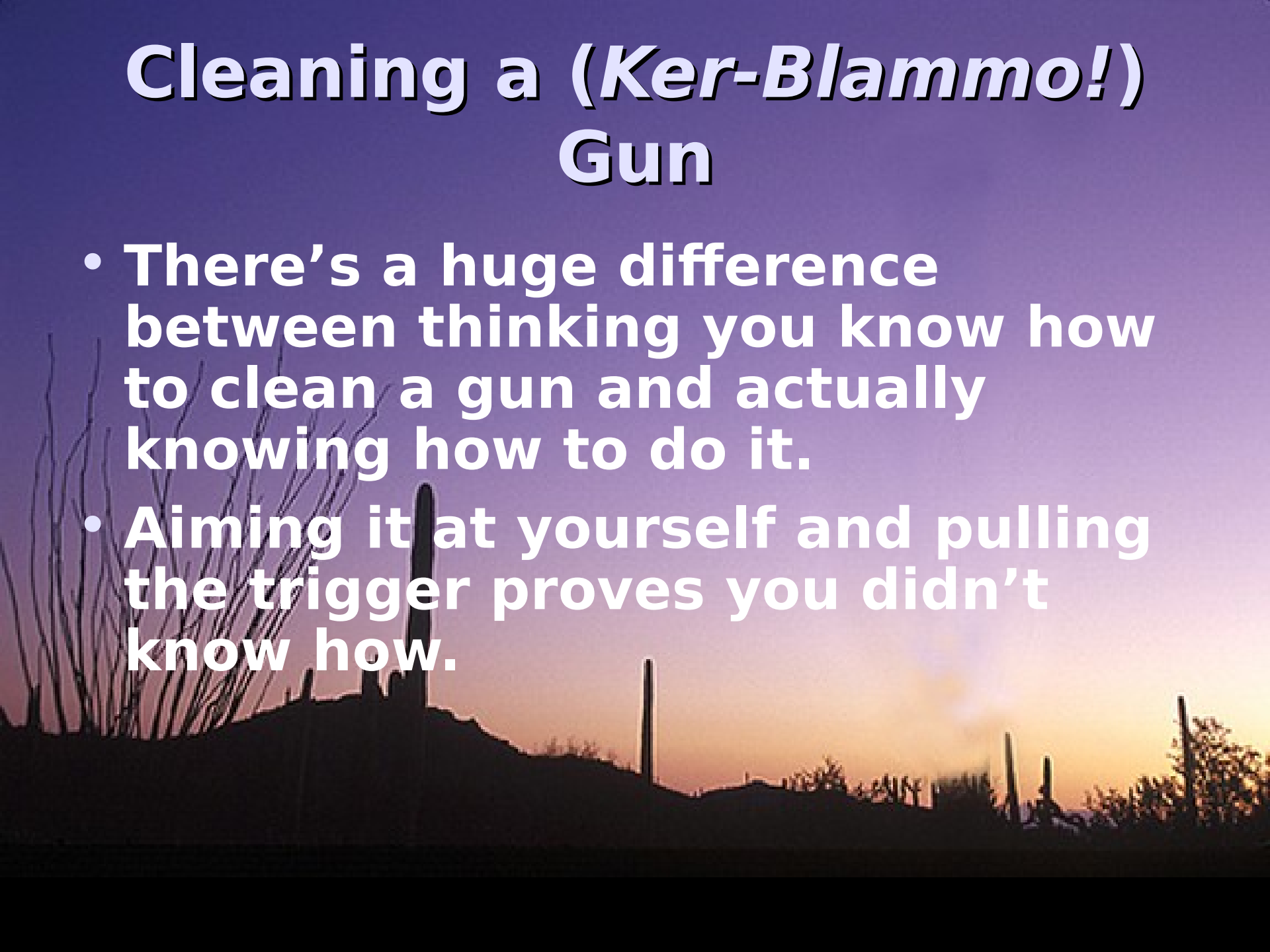


**O.K.**  
**CORRAL**  
**GUNFIGHT SITE**

**Cleaning  
weapons**

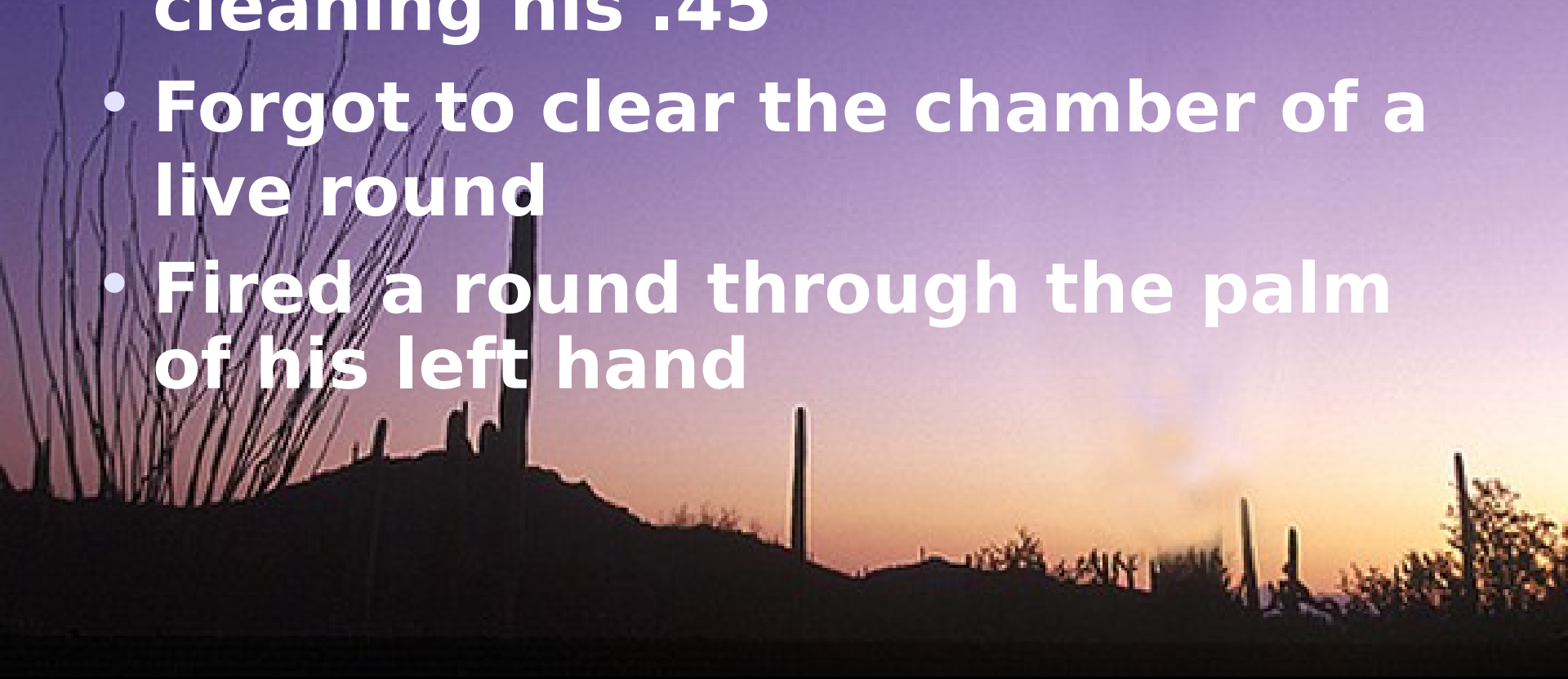
# **Cleaning a (*Ker-Blammo!*) Gun**

- **There's a huge difference between thinking you know how to clean a gun and actually knowing how to do it.**
- **Aiming it at yourself and pulling the trigger proves you didn't know how.**



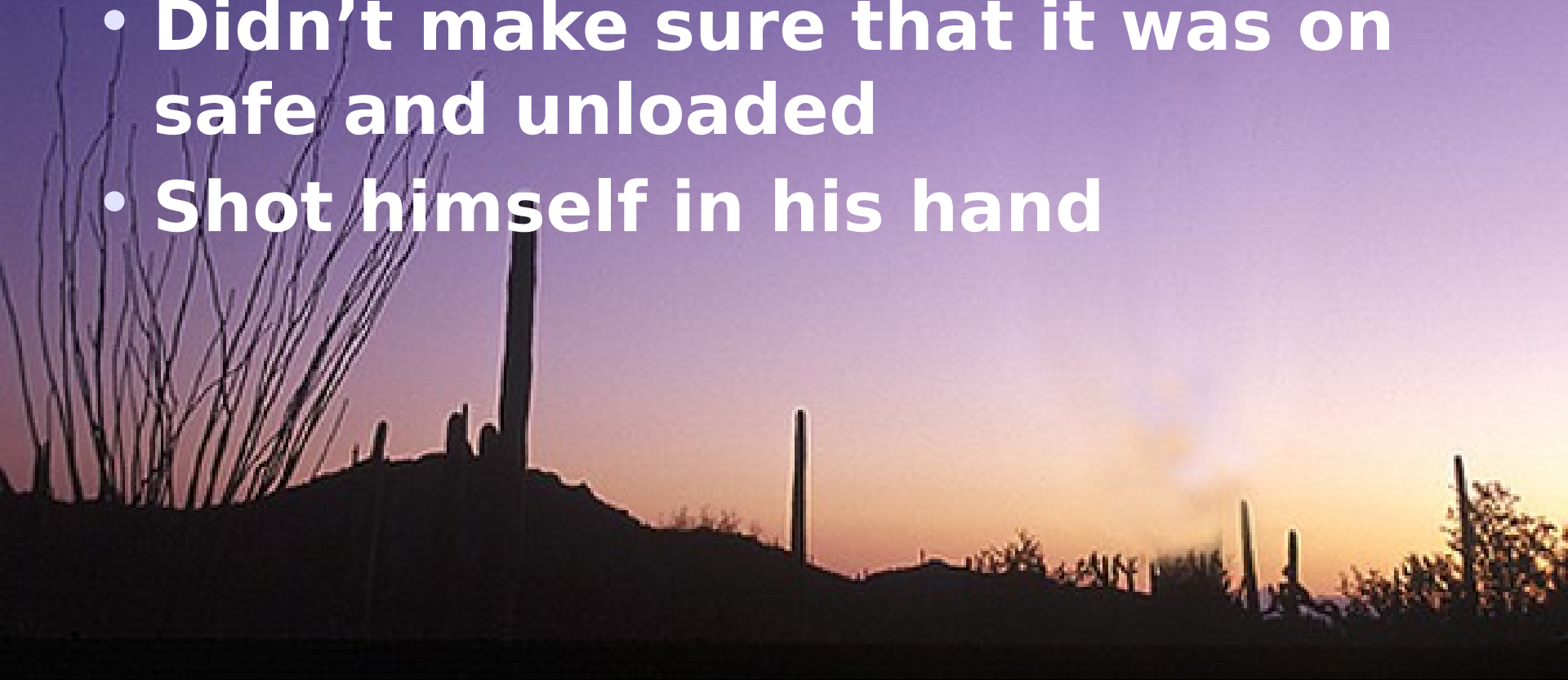
# **Cleaning a Firearm Is a Lot More Dangerous Than It Sounds**

- **HM1 at a town firing range, cleaning his .45**
- **Forgot to clear the chamber of a live round**
- **Fired a round through the palm of his left hand**



# **Cleaning a Firearm, cont.**

- **Staff sergeant cleaning .22 pistol**
- **Didn't make sure that it was on safe and unloaded**
- **Shot himself in his hand**



# **Cleaning a Firearm, cont.**

- **MM3 decided to clean his 9mm pistol**
- **Had familiarization training in boot camp**
- **Pressed the firearm's slide button on the grip**
- **Pulled the trigger to release the slide**
- **Fired a round into his leg**
- **Boot-camp training might be a way to end up in Boot Hill**





**O.K.**  
**CORRAL**  
**GUNFIGHT SITE**

the  
rules

# The Rules – USMC Version

- 1. Treat all weapons as if they are loaded until you personally clear them.**
- 2. Do not point your weapon at anything you do not intend to destroy**
- 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you've made the conscious decision to fire**
- 4. Know your target and it's surroundings**
- 5. Be aware of your surroundings**

*Thanks to Capt. Ron Terrell, USMC  
Tactical Ops, Naval Safety Center*

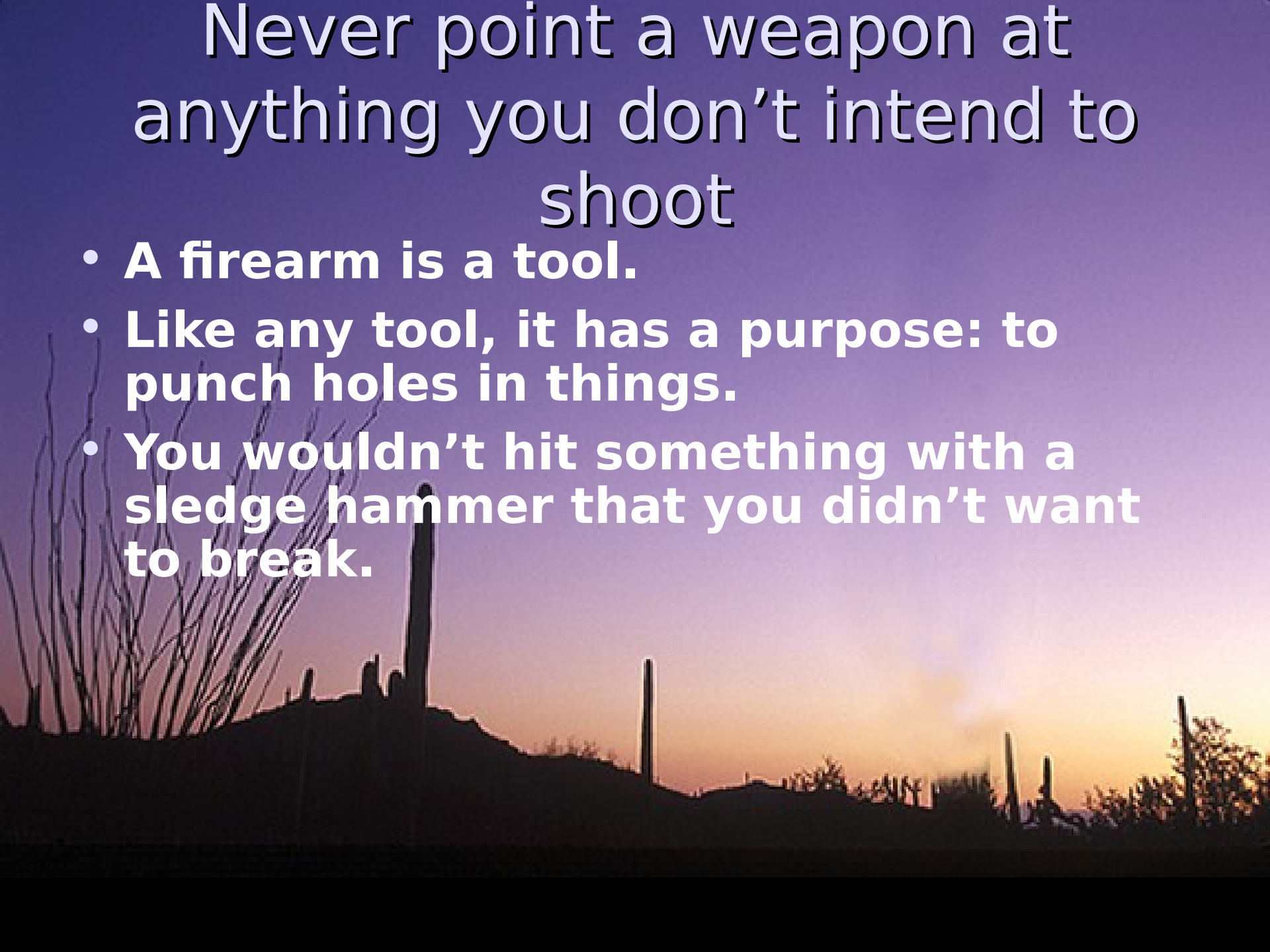
# Treat every weapon as if it were loaded

- **Sometimes overzealously and incorrectly taught as load every firearm.**
- **Means that no matter what condition you believe the firearm is in, always act as if it is loaded.**
- **Generally not possible to tell just by looking if a weapon is loaded.**

*Thanks to SSgt. David Pepper, 176WG*

# Never point a weapon at anything you don't intend to shoot

- **A firearm is a tool.**
- **Like any tool, it has a purpose: to punch holes in things.**
- **You wouldn't hit something with a sledge hammer that you didn't want to break.**



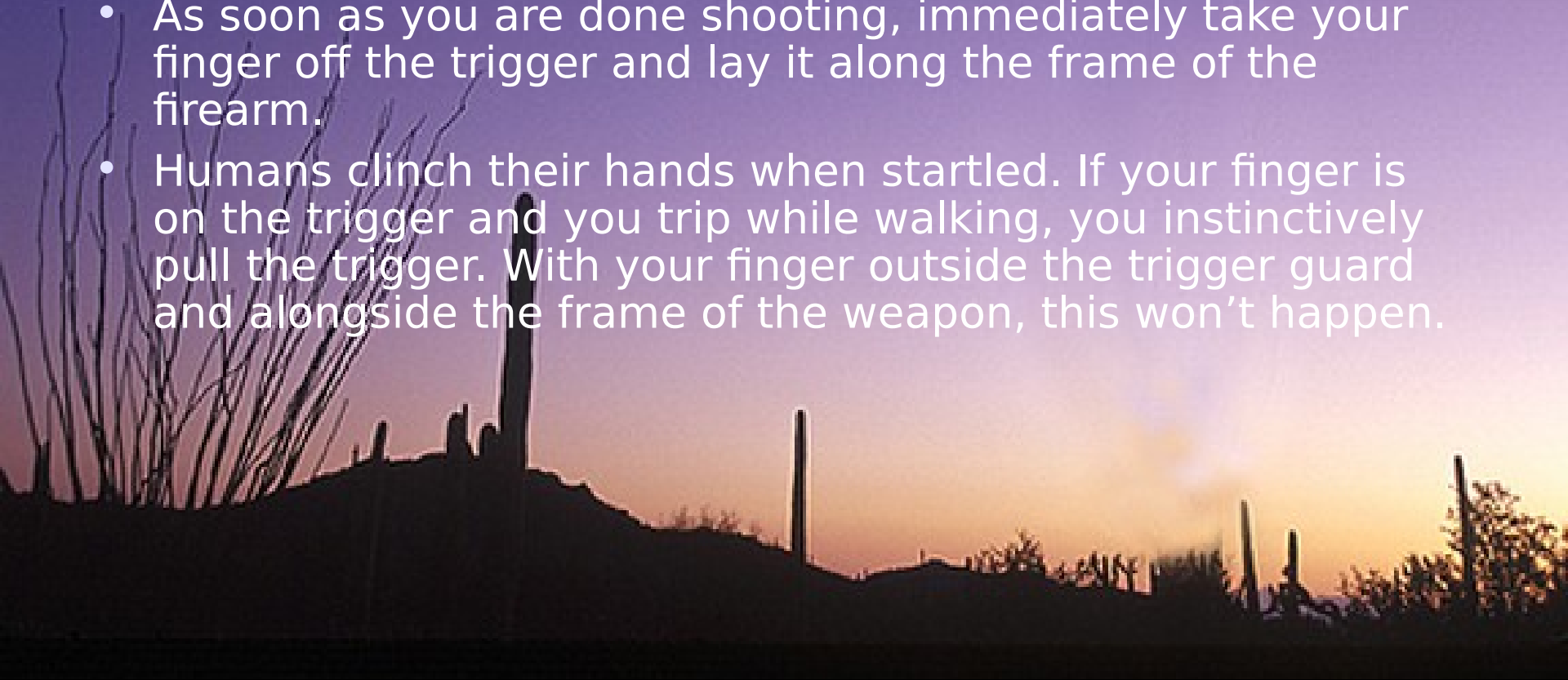
# Keep your weapon on safe until you are ready to fire

- **If your firearm is equipped with an external safety device, never disengage it until you are ready to fire a bullet.**
- **Many people have disengaged safety devices while their firearm was in the holster and then proceeded to shoot themselves.**
- **Don't turn off a safety device until the firearm is actually pointed at the target.**



# Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you intend to fire

- Placing your finger on the trigger should be the very last action before firing the weapon.
- As soon as you are done shooting, immediately take your finger off the trigger and lay it along the frame of the firearm.
- Humans clench their hands when startled. If your finger is on the trigger and you trip while walking, you instinctively pull the trigger. With your finger outside the trigger guard and alongside the frame of the weapon, this won't happen.



# The Rules, Ver. 2

1. Treat all weapons as if they are loaded until you personally clear them.
2. Do not point your weapon at anything you do not intend to destroy
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you've made the conscious decision to fire
4. Know your target and it's surroundings
5. Be aware of your surroundings

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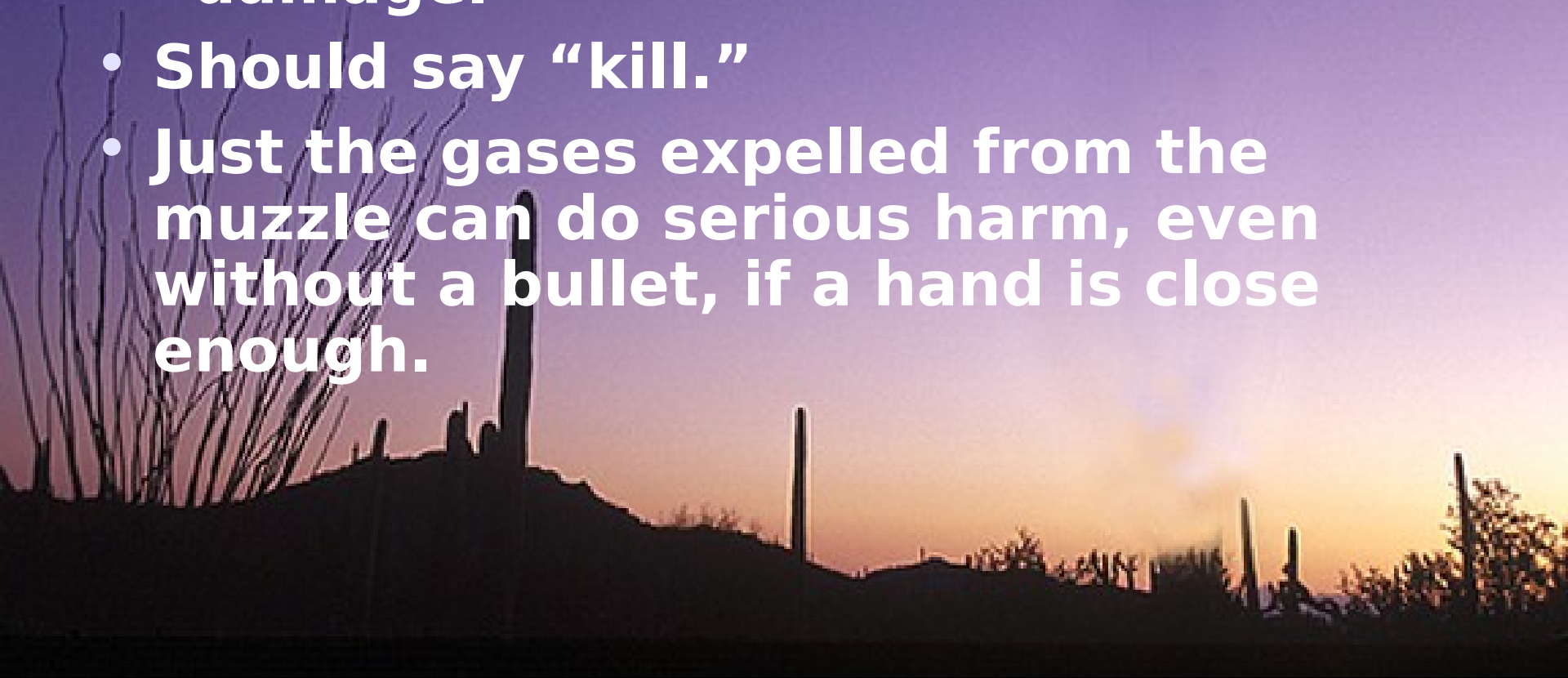
# 1: "...until you clear them yourself"

- **Whenever you pick up a weapon or are handed a weapon, make sure it is clear.**
- **Even if you just cleared it and put it down, clear it again prior to doing anything with it.**
- **Make this a permanent step in your mental process.**



## 2: "...intend to destroy"

- **Some rules say “hurt,” “injure,” or “damage.”**
- **Should say “kill.”**
- **Just the gases expelled from the muzzle can do serious harm, even without a bullet, if a hand is close enough.**



3: "... you've made the conscious decision..."

- **Some people think they are always "ready" to fire.**
- **Decision isn't just to hit a target, but are willing to kill something.**



## 4: “Know your target...”

- **What will you hit if you miss?**
- **What will the bullet hit if it goes through the target?**





# Unloading a Weapon

1. Put weapon on "Safe."
2. Point weapon at a safe object (down range or into a clearing barrel).
2. Remove magazine.
3. Lock slide back and, while still pointed in a safe direction, check for ammo in the weapon's barrel. Ensure chamber is empty and no ammunition is present
4. Once barrel is cleared, release slide.
5. There should be no surprises at this point.

# “Ker-Blammo!”

To read more about personnel who mistakenly thought their weapon was unloaded, who had itchy trigger fingers, or who didn't know how to clean a gun, visit

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/funnies/collections/kerblammo.htm>

